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Gross Point

HOW ARE YOU GONNA
WORK FOR THE TEAM IF
YOU'RE AFRAID OF THE
EQUIPMENT ROOM?

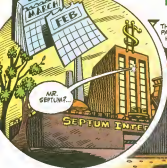


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THIS IS MR. PARKINSON--
HE, AH--
HE--

SEPTUM, YOUR EMPLOYEES HERE SENT ME
THIS IMPLANT INSTEAD OF A HEART-
LUNG MACHINE.

PECKMAN!
IS THIS
TRUE?

Y-Y-VESSIR,
BUT I TAKE
FUH-FUH-FUH
FULL
RESPONSIBILITY--

I SHOULD SAY SO! YOUR
AH... PROTOTYPE SEEMS TO
BE WORKING JUST FINE!

BETTER
THAN FINE!

BETTER THAN FINE! AND WE HAVE A WHOLE
WAREHOUSE FULL OF THEM!

"PROTOTYPE"?
IT'S A DEFECTIVE
SUMP PUMP...

DEFECTIVE?/
YOUR BRAIN-
CHILD? THE SEPTUM
INTERNATIONAL
PULMO SUMP 2000!

WHIRRR

IF WE PLAY THIS RIGHT, I'LL NEED A WHOLE
NEW FACTORY TO MAKE MORE OF YOUR SO-
CALLED "DEFECTIVE" UNITS.

SIR?

PECKMAN, YOU'RE NO
BUSINESSMAN, COME TO
THINK OF IT, YOU'RE NOTHING--
A DRONE.

BUT
I'M GOING
TO MAKE
YOU INTO--

...BY
A
TISSUE!
QUICKLY!

BUT I
DON'T WANT
TO BE A
TIS--

WAAA
CHOO!



HOWARD PICKETT,
MY FOOT! THERE CAN
ONLY BE ONE AWARD-
WINNER--



-- AND IT CAN
ONLY
BE ME!



THAT COLLIER BLUFF
UPSTART-- D.V. SEPTUM--
JUST CAN'T BUILD A BRAND-
NEW FACTORY IN GROSS
POINT...

AND EMPLOY
THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE--
AND WIN MY AWARD FOR
HIS FLUNKY, PICKETT--
JUST LIKE THAT!

MADAME
BLOOBETT--
YOUR SON,
'E WISHES TO
LEND A HAND.



BUT ZE BOY, 'S
BES LIKE YOU--PER'APS
TOO PASSIONATE.

DON'T
FALL APART
ON ME,
PUTARD.

BE LIKE
KEVIN--
SHOW SOME
BACKBONE!



MONSIEUR
KEVIN!
PLEEEZE!

STAND
STILL!

ZE SEWING
MACHINE BES IN
ZE CAR. I WEE
GET EET.

KLK

SACRÉ
BLEU!

WHAT ARE
THOSE THINGS?
THEY LOOK LIKE
ENORMOUS
SEED PODS!

POD'n US

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FEAR ME,
WORLD! I'M
HOWARD PICKETT,
THE SUCCESS!

I KNEW YOU
COULD DO IT,
HOWARD.

I'VE GOT EVERYTHING! MONEY, ACCLAIM, AND A
REASONABLY LOVING FAMILY!

MORE
CHAMPAGNE,
CHARMAINE!

OH
HOWARD...!
SIXTY
DOLLARS
A BOTTLE...
SHOULD
I?

I THINK WE
SHOULD TAKE ALL
THAT PULCHRUMP
MONEY AND
RELOCATE.

MAYBE
WE CAN BUY
A HOUSE
IN, LIKE,
COLLIER BLUFF,
FOR INSTANCE.

WONDERFUL,
TERRI! A
SUCCESSFUL
MAN OWNS
THINGS!

BUT
COLLIER BLUFF?
WHO NEEDS THOSE
SHOES? NO QUESTION
THAT IT'S TIME TO
PUT DOWN SOME
ROOTS...

...BUT WHY NOT
RIGHT HERE IN
GROSS POINT?

WAY TO GO,
SHANK. NOW
WE'RE "PUTTING
DOWN ROOTS..."

WELL,
THERE'S
STILL
TONIGHT.
WE'VE
GOT TO
CONVINCE
MOM AND
DAD THAT
GROSS POINT
IS NO
PLACE TO
LIVE.

YOU KNOW...
WHERE MY BOY-
FRIEND LIVES?

...



I'M THE GUEST OF HONOR.

BULLY.

LOOK--
IT'S
SIMPLE--

--WE JUST NEED TO
GET MOM AND DAD
TO SPEND SOME
"QUALITY TIME"
WITH THE TOWNS
MOVERS AND, LIKE,
SHAKERS START-
ING WITH THE MOST
OBVIOUS--

THE
DeKAYE
SISTERS?

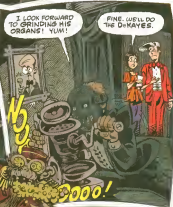
NAAA, THEY'RE
JUST FREAKS.
BUT KEVIN
BLODGETT
IS DECOM-
POSED!



NO, DAMMIT!
HERE THEY
COME!

THAT ORGAN
GRINDER WANTS
OUR MONKEY!

PLEASE
DON'T LET
HIM TAKE
LITTLE
KLEPTO!



I LOOK FORWARD
TO GRINDING HIS
ORGANS! YUM!

FINE. WE'LL DO
THE DeKAYES.



DAD! LOOKIT!

KEVIN BLODGETT!
YOU OLD SO-AND-
SO! GLAD YOU
COULD MAKE IT,
HIDEO!

AH!

FORGET IT, WE'LL
DO KEVIN.

DAD! I SNIFF
SMELL KEVIN! IT'S
JUST LIKE A --

I SNIFF! I SNIFF!
I SNIFF!

HE DOESN'T
SMELL LIKE A
ROTTING CORPSE
ANYMORE, BRI.

TOLDJA,
C'MON--
THE
DEKAYES.

?!

--BUT YOU KNOW HOW IT IS FOR
US SUCCESSFUL PEOPLE.

HURRY!

YOU
HURRY!

COME,
FLORENCE
AND
MIRIAM
DEKAYE!

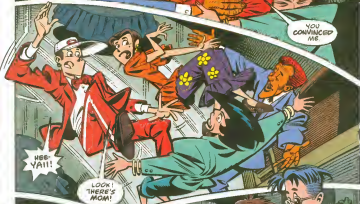
YES! HIDE
HERE IN THE
BASEMENT!

SWEET CHEESES!
MY HEART'S BEATIN'
LIKE A ~~GRINDER~~
TRIPHAMMER!

KNOCK IT OFF,
KLEPTO! THE ORGAN
GRINDER'LL HEAR
THAT.

GROW
GROW
GROW





OUTSTANDING.
WE GOT HER TO
WAVE AT US...!

THIS IS GOING AWRY,
SCOTCH-ASIDE.

NOW WHAT?

HELLO,
BRIAN AND
TERRI
PICKETT,
YOU WERE
LOOKING
FOR US?

HUH? I THOUGHT
YOU WERE RUNNING FROM
MR. KRASCHENBYRNE.

RUNNING?
WHY? WE ARE
LOVELY, NORMAL...
AND WELL-
ADJUSTED!

FLORENCE,
DEAR, WOULD
YOU CARE
FOR SOME
PUNCH?

DON'T
BOTHER,
DEAR, I'LL
GET SOME
FOR BOTH
OF US.

YOU TWO-- YOU AREN'T
S-SIAMESE TWINS
ANYMORE?

THEY PREFER
TO BE CALLED
CONJOINED
TWINS, DEAR.

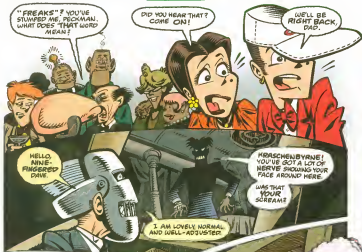
HAVE YOU SEEN
THE BASEMENT?
IT'S VERY
BEAUTIFUL.

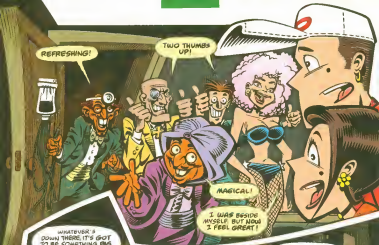
IT WAS
PECKMAN'S
PROJECT FROM THE
START. QUITE A MAN,
THIS PECKMAN.

GAD!
LOOK! THE
DEKAYE
SISTERS
AREN'T
CONNECTED!

WELL,
SURGERY IS OFTEN
AN OPTION FOR
FREAKS-- I MEAN,
THE CHROMOSOMALLY
CHALLENGED.

AAAAAAAAA





REFRESHING!

TWO THUMBS
UP!

MAGICAL!

I WAS BESIDE
MYSELF, BUT NOW
I FEEL GREAT!

WHATEVER'S
DOWN THERE, IT'S GOT
TO BE SOMETHING BIG
IF IT CAN DO THIS...!

YOU'RE
THINKING, FOR
ONCE, LET'S CHECK
IT OUT.

GAHHND THIS
IS STRANGE...



--EVEN
FOR GHO--!!

DUCK!

CONGRATULATIONS!

"DUCK" WAS THE SECRET
WORD -- YOU GET \$50 TO SPLIT
AND I GET A SPLITTING
HEADACHE.

AND IF YOU THINK
THAT'S AN EARFUL,
WAIT'LL YOU HEAR
ME SCREAM.

YEEEEEWITCH! THAT HURTS SOMETHING
EARFUL!

OUR
NEXT-DOOR
NEIGHBOR
JUST SAVED
OUR LIVES!

I FEEL A PANT &
KIND OF WEIRD
ABOUT THAT.

YEAH, I PANT
PANT & I CAN'T
MAKE UP MY MIND
IF THAT'S A GOOD
THING OR NOT.

SOT
NOW
WHAT?

MOM!
DAD!
COME
QUICKLY!

THERE'S
SOMETHING
HORRIBLE
IN THE
BASEMENT!

GOOD
ONE.

SOMETHING HORRIBLE!?
GIBBEN-ZEE A LOOK!

AM'LL JES'
HAVE A
PEEK...

BUSHEMENT

NO!--

--KEEP OUT!

AWWWW!!
THE HIBS PROBABLY
HAVE SOME SORT OF
TESTIMONIAL
OR ROAST
PLANNED FOR THEIR
OLD MAN.

THAT'S
CUTE.

THESE
TWISTED,
CREEPY PEOPLE GO
DOWN INTO THE
BASEMENT--

CHECK.

--AND THEY COME UP
FROM THE BASEMENT
LOVELY, NORMAL,
AND WELL-
ADJUSTED.

YEAH, YEAH.
WHAT'S YOUR
POINT?

CAN'T YOU
SEE WHAT'S
HAPPENING?

"THEY'RE
TAKING AWAY YOUR
PERSONALITY! IF YOU GO
DOWN THERE, YOU'RE
NEXT!"

YOU'RE
ALL
NEXT!

LET'S
THINK THIS
THROUGH,
BRI.



Oh.

EXACTLY.

NO MATTER WHAT WE
DO OR, LIKE, WHAT GODS
WE PRAY TO 'N STUFF?..

EXCEPT NOW,
MAYBE THAT WOULDN'T
BE SO BAD...!

...GROSS POINT IS
GONNA BE OUR HOME
TOWN FOR GOOD,
NOW.



NEWHHEM BLOODSETT,
YOU ARE A MISTAKE.
YOUR ORIGINAL BRAIN
HAD BEEN DENATURED--

--AND YOU DID NOT
EMERGE NORMAL, LOVELY,
OR WELL-ADJUSTED.

I MUST
BURY YOU--
AS MY
ORIGINAL
SHOULD HAVE.

Ah.



AND ~~WE~~! WE'RE KIDDING
OURSELVES. EVEN A HAPPY HEALTHY
GROSS POINT IS STILL GONNA BE
SICK...!

YEAH.

BRIAN
AND TERRI
PICKETT.

HUG.

GET
OFF
ME!

I WANT MY
REAL
PARENTS!

OR, UM, AT LEAST
MORE THAN I WANT
YOU!

YOU
FOOLS!

WHY
CAN'T YOU
ACCEPT
IT?

SOON
WE WILL
ALL BE
NORMAL
LOVELY
AND WELL-
ADJUSTED

--MEANWHILE, IN THE
MIDWEST, EL CONO HAS
CAUSED MAJOR
FLOODING.

"EL CONO"--THE WEATHER CONDITION CAUSED BY LARGE
SHIPS IN THE GREAT LAKES GETTING CONFUSED AND
FOLLOWING EACH OTHER IN CIRCLES--



--IS
UNLEASHING A
FURIOUS
RAINSTORM...

...CENTERED
ON THE MODERATE-
SIZED COMMUNITY
OF CROSS
POINT.

RUMMMBLE



ALL THIS
WATER !!
NEUHOARD
ARE THE
PODS SAFE?

THE
BASEMENT
IS WATER-
TIGHT.







MUSTAH SEPTUM, SUH?
TH' MAYOR AND I WAS JES'
SAYIN' AS HOW SOME O'YORE
SUMP-PUMPS WOULD
COME IN HANDY...

...WHAT WITH
DRAININ' THE
WATER AN' ALL...

OKAY, I'LL UNDER-
WRITE IT-- AND LIKELY
PAY TOP DOLLAR.

YOU'VE GOT
ME ON THE
ROPE'S,
SEPTUM.

I COULD
PAY BETTER...

IF SOMEBODY HADN'T
FRITTERED AWAY MY WHOLE
WAREHOUSE OF SUMP-
PUMPS ON SOME SILLY
SCHEME!

ACED IT!
YESSSSSS!
--THE
AWARD IS
MINE--
AGAIN!

I HATE YOU,
PECKMAN!

YOU, YOU MEAN... I'M NOT A SUCCESS?

YOU'RE LUCKY TO BE AN
EMPLOYEE! I WOULD FIRE
YOU, IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE
PLEASURE OF DEMOTING
YOU! PULMO-SUMP, MY
EYE!

I KNEW IT WAS
TOO GOOD TO BE
TRUE.



--HOW DO YOU
THINK YOU CAME TO
WAKE UP IN A BIG
POD, DAD? HUNH?
IN EIGHT FEET OF
WATER?

GUESS WE HAD A LITTLE TOO
MUCH CHAMPAGNE BEFORE
THE AWARDS DINNER.

YOU GOT
THAT
RIGHT--

--ESPECIALLY
AT SIXTY ~~THOUSAND~~
DOLLARS A BOTTLE!

ARGH!

HOPELESS.

3 SIGN'S WELL,
AT LEAST WE'RE
NOT "PUTTING
DOWN ROOTS"
YET.

ACTUALLY,
TER, RIGHT NOW
PUTTING DOWN
ROOTS DOESN'T
SOUND SO
BAR.

OR EVEN AN
ANCHOR.

NEXT ISSUE:

AN EXTRA-SPECIAL,
BOOK-LENGTH
HELPING OR..

**MYSTERY
MEAT**

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